nutrient management, pest and disease management, fertilizer management, storage, grading and packaging and transportation.

(c) Budget for training programmes in Maharashtra is estimated at Rs. 10.80 lakhs. This, however, can be revised depending upon needs projected by the State Government/Industry. No specific district-wise allocations have been made.

New Loaning Policy for Himachal Pradesh Farmers

901. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the refinance facility to the poor farmers of Himachal Pradesh for their crop production;

(b) whether Government are contemplating a new loaning policy for the Himachal Pradesh farmers;

(c) if so, when it is likely to be extended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Steps taken to improve the refinance facility to the poor farmers of Himachal Pradesh for their crop production are as under:—

(i) Several refinements in the existing crop loan system based on the recommendations of "committee on crop loan system" have been made. These are:

— Preparation of Normal Credit Limit (NCL) statements by cooperatives once in three years with annual updation;

— Broad-basing the technical committee for fixing scales of finance and flexibility in the proportion of cash and kind components;

— Disbursement of kind component in cash;

— Fixing scales of finance separately for Hi-tech and Horticulture crop;

— Financing crop-loan under cash credit system;

— Raising maximum borrowing powers of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) and individual members.

(ii) Introduction of Kisan Credit Card scheme by the Banks, 1861 Kisan Credit Cards have been issued by the Banks in Himachal Pradesh.

(iii) To enhance the borrowing power of the Cooperative Credit Institutions in the State of Himachal Pradesh, NABARD have also been providing Long Term loans to the Himachal Pradesh Government for contributing to the share capital of these institutions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Existing facilities are considered to be adequate.

Refinance Policy to small farmers of North-East States

902. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken up by Government to continue the refinance facility to the poor farmers of the North-Eastern States for their crop production;

(b) whether Government are contemplating a new loaning policy for the North-Eastern farmers;

(c) if so, when it will be extended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Steps taken to continue the refinance facility to the poor farmers of North Eastern States are as under:—

(i) Minimum recovery performance/level of Non Performing Assets (NPA) criteria are not insisted for the Cooperative Banks operating in North Eastern States.

(ii) Minimum involvement norms have been fixed at much lower